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(DC-03006)

PATENT APPLICATION
09/800,042

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is related to copending Application Serial No. 09/_____09/800,046 filed March 5, 2001 entitled *Method, System and Facility for Controlling Resource Allocation Within a Manufacturing Environment* filed by Branden Clark Bickley et al.; and copending Application Serial No. 09/_____09/799,849 filed March 5, 2001 *Method and System for Simulating Production Within a Manufacturing Environment* filed by Branden Clark Bickley.--

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Among the cost-saving measures that a producer may employ is to follow the direct-ship model, in which the manufacture avoids middlemen such as distributors and retailers by accepting orders directly from and shipping products directly to customers. However, additional costs are borne by a ~~manufacture~~ manufacturer that provides a direct-ship option, in that the ~~manufacture~~ manufacturer must provide distribution facilities, in addition to providing the manufacturing facilities.--

3. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph.

--According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a method for monitoring resources within a build to order manufacturing facility is disclosed. The method includes accessing information resources for selective portions of a manufacturing facility associated with one or more pieces of equipment remotely located from a control center for the manufacturing facility operable to produce build to order products. The method further includes determining an operating status of the one ~~ore~~ or more pieces of equipment relative to a ship criteria associated with manufacturing the products and displaying the status within a user interface of the control center.--

4. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--According to a further aspect of the present disclosure, a medium including encoded logic for monitoring resources within a build to order manufacturing facility is disclosed. The medium ~~includes~~ includes logic operable to access information resources for selective portions of a manufacturing facility and associated with one or more pieces of equipment remotely located from a control center for the manufacturing facility operable to produce build to order products. The logic further operable to determine an operating status of the one ~~ore~~ or more pieces of equipment relative to a ship criteria associated with manufacturing the products and display the status within a user interface of the control center.--

5. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--If the shipping system determines that an order is not fillable or not shippable, the shipping system automatically stores the products received for that order in automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS) 108. When it is determined that an order is fillable and shippable, the shipping system automatically updates the status of the order in one or more databases to flag the order as having been released and automatically conveys the ordered items to a parcel unit 110 for tendering to parcel carriers (for small orders) or to ~~an a~~ less-than-trailer-load (LTL) unit 109 to be loaded onto pallets and then tendered to LTL carriers (for larger orders), as described in greater detail below.--

6. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Each transport for an associated production line 206a, 206b, 206c, and 206d is a multi-tiered transport system that includes several vertically displaced transport levels for transporting assembly kits to associated build cells within build facility 207. Each transport is distributively coupled to boxing facility 208 including plural boxing areas 208a, 208b, 208c and 208d for packaging assembled systems for shipping. Upon packaging the assembled products, each box is ~~preferreably~~ preferably transferred to ~~shipping~~ shipping where associated items from SPAM (speaker, printer, advanced port replicators, monitors) unit 209 may be joined via a transport system (not expressly shown). Within SPAM unit 209,

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additional hardware such as speakers, printers, monitors, etc. are included with each packaged product.--

7. Please replace the paragraph on page 16, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph.

--Packaged products may be transported to either LTL unit 214, parcel shipping 217 or ASRS 211 depending on an order fill requirement or criteria for the associated produced product. For example, if an order has been filled and is to be shipped via an available LTL carrier, the completed product will be forwarded to one of the pallet areas 215a, 215b, 215c, or ~~216d~~ 215d for palletizing and subsequent shipping via an LTL carrier. In another embodiment, an order may be forwarded to parcel shipping area 217 for shipping orders to customers which may not require LTL carrier type transportation of product--

8. Please replace the paragraph on page 20, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph.

--In another embodiment, one or more business units 302 may request orders based on a WIP profile for one or more areas within first and/or second manufacturing facility 306, 318. For example, incoming parcel 312 may include several products shipped from second manufacturing facility 318 to first manufacturing facility 306. One of the business units 302 may request additional products for an order and incoming parcel 312 may receive one or more of the requested products. As such, centralized information system 301 may aggregate information relating to the request and provide a user of system 301 WIP profile and scheduling information for filling the updated order. Centralized information system 301 may therefore be considered an aggregator 301. In this manner, resources for producing, scheduling, storing, transporting, etc. for a manufacturing facility may be dynamically allocated to fill each order based on WIP profiles associated with portions of the manufacturing facility.--

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9. Please replace the paragraph on page 22, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph.

--Upon displaying a user interface, the method proceeds to provide real-time updates 404 for each user interface 405 through accessing one or more networks operable to provide real-time updates to data logs or databases representing changes within the manufacturing environment. For example, a problem may occur with one or more products for an order which was produced in a particular build cell of the manufacturing facility. However, several other products for the same order may not encounter such quality issues. As such, the ~~satisfactory~~ satisfactory products may be packaged and forwarded to ASRS and stored while the products with problem(s) are held until the problem is resolved. Such a situation may provide a challenge for resources which have been allocated for filling an order. For example, a particular LTL carrier may have been scheduled to ship the completed order to a destination. With a portion of the order being held, the LTL carrier may not be able to meet the deadline. The method would determine 406 if resources should be reallocated 407 and allow a user to access one or more areas having WIP profiles for similar product within the manufacturing facility and reallocate resources 408 within the facility so that the LTL carrier will not have to wait and the deadline will be met. The change in resource allocation may be updated within an appropriate database 409 and the method would update the user interface 404 accordingly.--

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